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THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL

**With Special Reference to the System in Use in the Office of
the Surgeon General, U. S. Army¹**

DR C. H. ALDEN, ASSISTANT SURGEON GENERAL, U. S. ARMY

My purpose is not to enter into a general discussion of the identification of the individual nor of the various methods proposed for its accomplishment. Time would not permit, for the bibliography alone of this subject would occupy many pages, as an examination of the Catalogue of the Army Medical Library will show. I shall confine myself to a sketch of the system of identification of the individual soldier now in use in the Surgeon General's Office, indicating the necessity for it, the principles upon which it is based, an account of its practical workings and of the results obtained, and incidentally of the Bertillon system of anthropometry, with which the army system is to some extent allied.

It will doubtless be remembered what a serious embarrassment to the government the reënlistment of deserters, bounty-jumpers, and other undesirable characters in the army became in the later stages of the civil war; how that, stimulated by the enormous bounties paid by towns and county governments and the large prices paid for substitutes, men would enlist and desert, repeating the process many times. As noted by Dr Robert Fletcher in his interesting paper on "Tattooing," read before the Anthropological Society in 1882, an effort was made during the civil war, by marking men on discharge with nitrate of sil-

¹ Read before the Anthropological Society of Washington, May 5, 1896.

ver, to secure their detection at subsequent attempts at enlistment, but it had to be abandoned. Probably at that time, in view of the vast army then in service, the frequent changes, the hurry and confusion of actual warfare, no effective plan could have been carried out.

Familiar as we were with the existence of the evil during war times, one would hardly think that it could exist to any serious extent in peace and in our present army, yet this reënlistment of deserters and dishonorably discharged men became so frequent that in 1888 it was evident that something must be done to prevent it. The efforts that were being made and have continued to be made to procure men of better character for the army and to elevate the tone of the enlisted men added to the importance of keeping out of the ranks deserters and men who have been dishonorably discharged.

I quote one instance of "repeating" which has occurred since the identification system has been in use, else it would not have been known. It illustrates the persistence of these repeaters and at the same time the value of the method which has detected them.

Patrick Timlin enlisted February 28, 1891; was dishonorably discharged in the same year. He enlisted as *William Swift*, January 14, 1892; was identified by outline card and discharged promptly for fraudulent enlistment; again enlisted as *James T. Casey*, May 2, 1892; was again identified and again discharged for fraudulent enlistment; again enlisted as *Thomas J. Casey*, September 15, 1892; was identified and discharged for fraudulent enlistment. Lastly, he enlisted as *James Pearson*, May 25, 1894; was identified and dishonorably discharged, with confinement for one year.

The system of M. Alphonse Bertillon had already become known and undoubtedly suggested the army system now in use to Dr Charles R. Greenleaf and Dr Charles Smart, of the United States Army, who were then on duty in the Surgeon General's Office, and to whom the credit of devising and putting it into successful operation is due. Messrs B. B. Thompson and Walter S. Kaye, clerks in the identification division of the Surgeon General's Office, are also entitled to much credit for their highly intelligent and efficient services in connection with the successful working of the system. The identification division of the Surgeon General's Office is now in charge of Major Smart.

Colonel Greenleaf and Major Smart have already published brief articles on the subject in the medical journals in 1891 and 1892, but the subject has not, I believe, yet been presented to this Society, nor have the later modifications of this method or its results up to a recent date been given.

A brief reference to the Bertillon system is necessary to an understanding of that with which my paper is specially concerned.

“The anthropometric system,” as he calls it, of M. Bertillon had been in successful use in Paris since 1882, but it was probably not until 1885 that the author made it known to the world, which he then did by an address before the International Prison Congress in Rome, in November of that year. Its merits were so obviously superior to the imperfect methods in use, that depended only on photographs or personal descriptions, that it was rapidly adopted throughout Europe. In September, 1887, it was adopted by the Wardens’ Association of the United States and Canada, which had been organized earlier in that year. A school of instruction in the method was held in Joliet, Illinois, in 1888, and the system was soon adopted by the principal penitentiaries, houses of correction, and police departments. Central bureaus have been established for the filing and examination of measurements made at different stations. The object is, as is apparent, to ascertain the previous history of the arrested men, to identify old offenders and to separate them from the new and less hardened ones, and thus provide for more intelligent efforts at reformation.

The Bertillon system depends essentially on the accurate measurements of certain osseous structures, most of which it is fairly assumed do not change materially during adult life. They are:

1. The length of the figure.
2. Measurement of the outstretched arms.
3. Measurement of the sitting figure from the bench to top of head.
4. Length of the head.
5. Width of the head.
6. Length of right ear.
7. Width of right ear.
8. Length of left foot.
9. Length of left middle finger.
10. Length of left little finger.
11. Length of left forearm.

Appropriate instruments, such as calipers, sliding scales of various styles, etc, are employed to obtain accurately the desired measurements.

These measurements are entered on a card which contains photographs, full face and right side of head and profile, with a notation of peculiarities of feature, such as the nose and color of eyes, form of ear, etc, according to a definite system, and last a description of scars, birth-marks, and other peculiar marks. These three—the measurements of the body, the photographs and description of the person, and the distinctive marks—form the basis of the system.

The cards containing the data already referred to are put into file-boxes and classified according, first, to the length of the head, then by the width, by the length of the left middle finger, and so on, each subdivision being again divided into the small, medium, and large, each one having, of course, definite limits. By comparing the measurement of the head of the suspected recidivist with those of the cards on file and then successively eliminating those who have different measures of other parts, it is easy, of course, to find the card, if one exists in the cabinet, in which all the measurements will practically coincide, the final detection being made by the photograph and personal description and distinctive marks. The measurements therefore serve not only as a means of identification, but as an index to find the other data upon which the final decision is made.

M. Bertillon has published a recent (1895) edition of his work describing his system, in two volumes, text and album of plates. The principles remain unchanged, but the work is much expanded by very minute and exact directions for the required procedures. The difficulties in securing exactness in taking these measurements have led to the most detailed instructions, even to instituting a sort of drill, the motions of the person examined being made in three movements or times and each measure made from two positions of the examiner. A special chair is devised in which the subject sits to be photographed, and the instructions as to describing the personal peculiarities are most thorough and painstaking and illustrated, as in all parts of the work, with cuts and photogravures. The scars and marks come last and take a subordinate though important place. Only the marks found on the head, upper extremities, and trunk above the waist would seem from the instructions to be ordinarily recorded.

The United States Army system was, as I have said, probably suggested by that of Bertillon. The first scheme that suggested itself was the possibility of causing all soldiers to be vaccinated at some exact and unusual spot, and thus become marked as having been in service. Accordingly, a circular was issued by the Surgeon General in December, 1888, requiring that all vaccinations on soldiers should thereafter be made on the outer aspect of the left leg at a point four inches below the head of the fibula, and that every man be so vaccinated when enlisted or reënlisted. It was an ingenious plan, but unfortunately so many soldiers became disabled temporarily by the inflammation resulting from the vaccination on the leg that in December, 1891, the circular had to be revoked. The scars then made are of value even now as evidence of former service.

The failure of this scheme led to effort to see if the scars, birth-marks, moles, and other natural or acquired marks could be utilized as means of identification. In carrying out this plan, the third division of the Bertillon system, already described, that of distinctive marks, is amplified and extended and becomes the sole means of identification, and when classified by the regions of the body in which they are found furnishes its own index. No measurements are taken except of the height of the person and of the size of the marks, and no photographs made.

The Bertillon system is without question a thoroughly scientific one, most complete and comprehensive, and has demonstrated its thorough efficiency and adaptation to its purpose by the success with which it has been practiced for the detection of criminals and its extension to almost all civilized countries, including even Japan.

The United States Army system cannot be compared directly with it, for it was devised for the special needs of the army service. It is a sort of "short cut," to use a popular phrase; it is simpler, avoids the use of special instruments and of the camera, but will be shown, I think, to have demonstrated its value and sufficiency by the results it has accomplished. Let us see how it is carried out.

In accordance with orders issued in April, 1889, for every man who enlists or reënlists the medical officer makes out an outline figure card such as is here illustrated, figures 1 and 2. This card shows name and organization, age, height, and color

Name, *John Smith.*

Organization, *M. S. (mounted service).*

Age, *23. Height, 67 $\frac{3}{4}$ inc.*

Hair, *L. Br. Eyes, Blue*

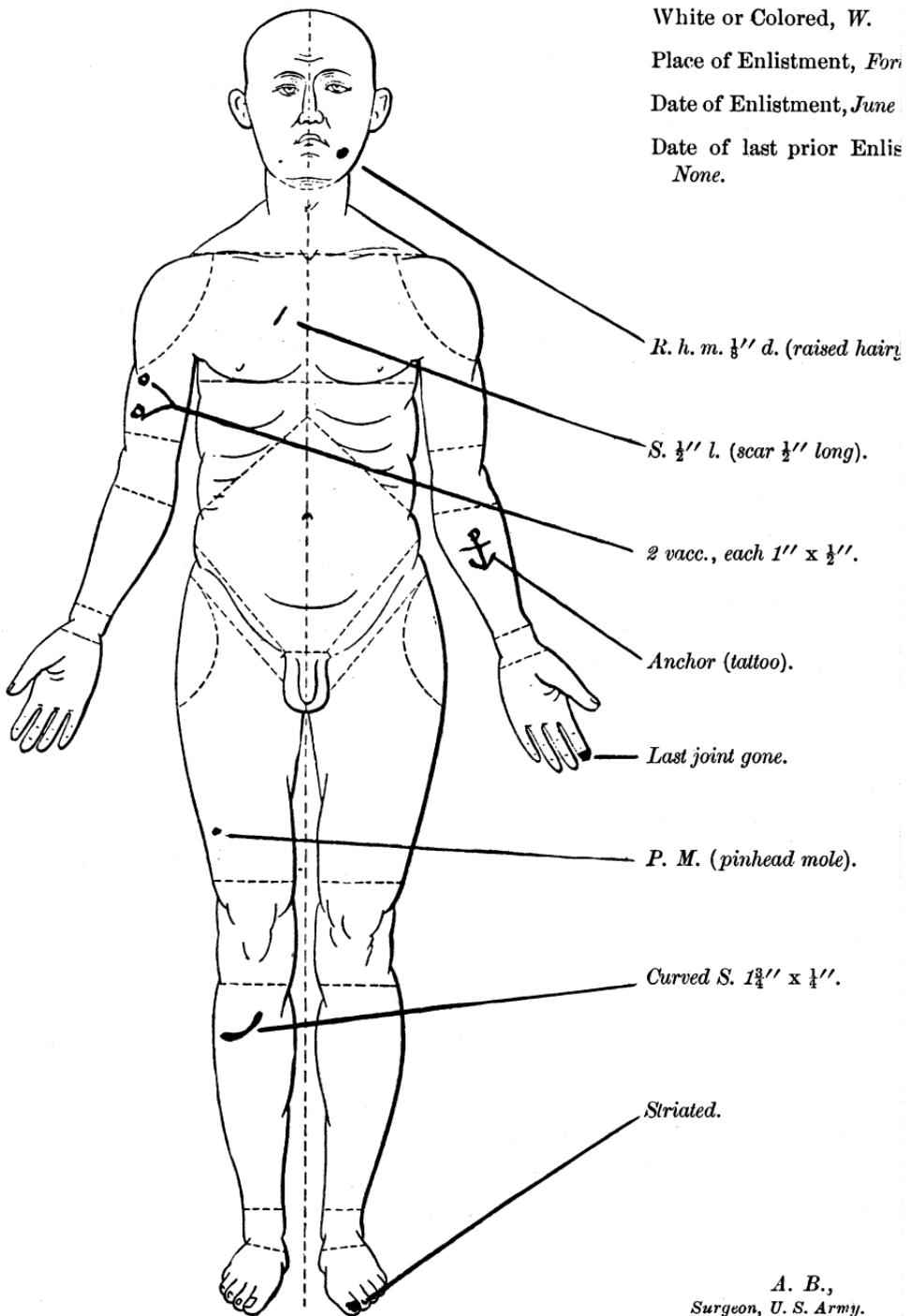
White or Colored, *W.*

Place of Enlistment, *For*

Date of Enlistment, *June*

Date of last prior Enlis

None.



Station, *Fort —.*

Date, *June 2, 1895.*

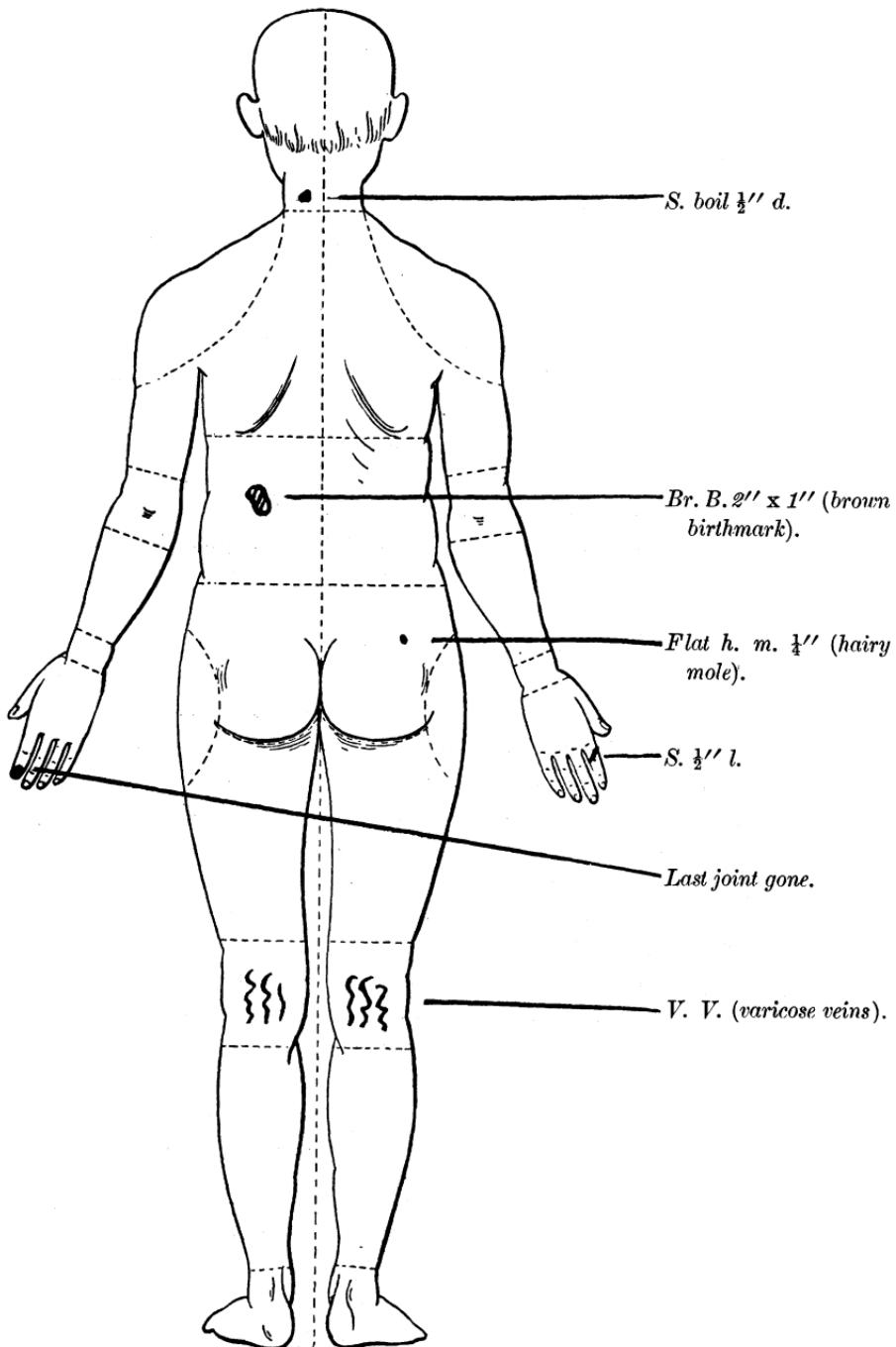
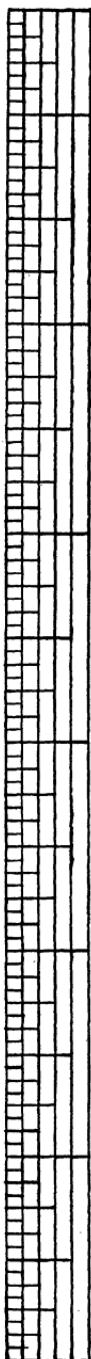


FIGURE 2—Back of Outline Card.



6 of hair and eyes, the latter according to the scale on a colored chart, and on this card, as the most important data, are entered the scars, tattoos, amputations, moles, including birth-marks, the location, nature, and size of the marks being accurately indicated, as shown in the above figures. Both front and back of the body, it will be seen, are represented.

5 On their receipt at the Surgeon General's Office, where they must be sent at once, these cards are filed alphabetically. Immediately on the desertion or dishonorable discharge of an enlisted man, a report of the fact is made to the Surgeon General. On receipt of this report the original enlistment outline figure card is taken out of the alphabetical file-case and transcribed on office outline cards, like the original card, except that the outlines are on the same side. This is done in order that a separate card (one to four are made) may be filed for each of the prominent regions in which important marks are found and because both sides, front and back, of the original card are utilized to save space, while this arrangement would be inconvenient for the office cards used for identification. The original outline card of the deserter is then returned to the alphabetical file. Transcripts are also made of the outline cards required to be sent in for every convict discharged from the military prisons or dishonorably discharged at a post. These office transcripts, of which I have said there are usually one to four for each man, are placed in one of two file-cases which are called the "transcript files," the arrangement of which is given in figures 3 and 4. It will be noted that the classification, corresponding to regions, is marked off by dotted lines on the figures on the outline cards. Scars form the most important group, and are arranged first as to location, *L. B. head* (left back head); *R. B. head*, etc.; then according to height of subject, those upon individuals under 67 inches being placed together, etc. The scar-files, it will be

seen, take up not only one entire case but a small part of the second. Then come the tattoos, which are similarly classified according to regions and subdivided by heights. Then amputations, which include, of course, only such minor losses as would not interfere with a soldier's duty, as portions of fingers and toes, yet forming, as will be readily seen, a very valuable means of identification. Then moles, including birth-marks, also classified as to regions, and finally, a separate but small division in red (indicated by italics in the figure) for the colored soldiers. It should be added that a special file of peculiar and unusual tattoos, such as are not likely to appear but once, is kept, which sometimes leads to prompt identification without search in the regular way.

You will see, therefore, that the classification runs as follows: 1st, as to race, white or colored; 2d, as to nature of prominent scars, tattoos, amputations, moles, etc; 3d, as to regions in which these marks are found, and 4th, as to the height of the individual. There are 120 drawers in the file-case, each one having a capacity of about 400 cards. The number of transcript cards to date is about 36,700 for about 12,150 deserters and discharged soldiers. The cards of recruits and reënlisted men now number about 58,900.

Of course, time had to be given for the accumulation of cards from recruits before the plan could go into effect, but it became operative in July, 1890, and has been in successful operation since, but slight changes in the system having been required. Originally the date on the cards for whites were transcribed into two books—one for men with blue eyes and one for men with brown eyes. The leaves of the book were tagged so as to show divisions as to height in quarter-inches, and the pages ruled in perpendicular columns, in which were entered the more important scars and other marks. This arrangement was found defective, owing to the uncertainty as to the color of eyes, which was liable to be given differently by different observers, and a like uncertainty as to the measurement of height, and was abandoned for the one now in use, which has been found to work satisfactorily.

Let us see, briefly, its practical operation. The outline figure card of the recruit is, when it comes in, inspected to see if he states he has had previous service. If he does, it is placed in the

Scars. L. B. head, under 67.	Scars. R. B. head, under 67.	Scars. L. neck.	Scars. R. neck.	Scars. L. buttock, under 67.	Scars. R. buttock, under 67.	Scars. L. leg, under 66.	Scars. R. leg, under 66.	Scars. L. shoulder, L. U. arm.	Scars. R. shoulder, R. U. arm.
Scars. L. B. head, 67 and over.	Scars. R. B. head, 67 and over.	Scars. L. breast, L. chest.	Scars. R. breast, R. chest.	Scars. L. buttock, 67 and over.	Scars. R. buttock, 67 and over.	Scars. L. leg, 66-67.	Scars. R. leg, 66-67.	Scars. L. F. arm, under 67.	Scars. R. F. arm, under 67.
Scars. L. F. head, under 67.	Scars. R. F. head, under 67.	Scars. L. abdomen.	Scars. R. abdomen.	Scars. L. thigh, under 67.	Scars. R. thigh, under 67.	Scars. L. leg, 68 and over.	Scars. R. leg, 68 and over.	Scars. L. F. arm, 67 and over.	Scars. R. F. arm, 67 and over.
Scars. L. F. head, 67 and over.	Scars. R. F. head, 67 and over.	Scars. L. groin.	Scars. R. groin, Penis.	Scars. L. thigh, 67 and over.	Scars. R. thigh, 67 and over.	Scars. L. foot, under 67.	Scars. R. foot, under 67.	Scars. L. B. hand, under 67.	Scars. R. B. hand.
Scars. L. cheek, L. ear.	Scars. R. cheek, R. ear.	Scars. L. scap., L. I. scap.	Scars. R. scap., R. I. scap.	Scars. L. knee, under 67.	Scars. R. knee, under 67.	Scars. L. foot, 67 and over.	Scars. R. foot, 67 and over.	Scars. L. B. hand, 67 and over.	Scars. R. palm, R. fingers.
Scars. Chin.	Scars. Nose, Lip.	Scars. L. lumbar.	Scars. R. lumbar.	Scars. L. knee, 67 and over.	Scars. R. knee, 67 and over.	Scars. L. heel, L. toes.	Scars. R. heel, R. toes.	Scars. L. palm.	Scars. R. thumb.

Scars. L. fingers.	<i>Tattoo.</i> L. shoulder, L. U. arm.	<i>Tattoo.</i> R. shoulder, R. U. arm.	<i>Tattoo.</i> Head, Trunk.	<i>Amputa-</i> <i>tions.</i>	<i>Moles.</i> L. chest.	<i>Moles.</i> R. chest.	<i>Moles.</i> L. buttock.	<i>Moles.</i> R. buttock.	<i>Colored.</i> Scars, head.
Scars. L. thumb, under 67.	<i>Tattoo.</i> L. F. arm, under 66.	<i>Tattoo.</i> R. F. arm, under 66.	<i>Tattoo.'</i> Thighs, Knees, legs, Feet, &c.	<i>Moles.</i> Nose, lip, Chin, ears, F.&B. head.	<i>Moles.</i> L. abdomen.	<i>Moles.</i> R. abdomen.	<i>Moles.</i> L. thigh, L. knee.	<i>Moles.</i> R. thigh, R. knee.	<i>Colored.</i> Scars, arms.
Scars. L. thumb, 67 and over.	<i>Tattoo.</i> L. F. arm, 66-67.	<i>Tattoo.</i> R. F. arm, 66-67.	<i>Moles.</i> L. cheek.	<i>Moles.</i> R. cheek.	<i>Moles.</i> R. & L. I. scaps.	<i>Moles.</i> R. & L. groins, Penis.	<i>Moles.</i> L. leg, L. foot.	<i>Moles.</i> R. leg, R. foot.	<i>Colored.</i> Scars, trunk.
<i>Tattoo.</i> B. F. arms, under 66.	<i>Tattoo.</i> L. F. arm, 68 and over.	<i>Tattoo.</i> R. F. arm, 68 and over.	<i>Moles.</i> L. neck, under 67.	<i>Moles.</i> R. neck, under 67.	<i>Moles.</i> L. scap., under 67.	<i>Moles.</i> R. scap., under 67.	<i>Moles.</i> L. shoulder.	<i>Moles.</i> R. shoulder.	<i>Colored.</i> Scars, legs.
<i>Tattoo.</i> B. F. arms, 66-67.	<i>Tattoo.</i> L. hand, under 67.	<i>Tattoo.</i> R. hand, under 67.	<i>Moles.</i> L. neck, 67 and over.	<i>Moles.</i> R. neck, 67 and over.	<i>Moles.</i> L. scap., 67 and over.	<i>Moles.</i> R. scap., 67 and over.	<i>Moles.</i> L. U. arm.	<i>Moles.</i> R. U. arm.	<i>Colored.</i> Moles.
<i>Tattoo.</i> B. F. arms, 68 and over.	<i>Tattoo.</i> L. hand, 67 and over.	<i>Tattoo.</i> R. hand, 67 and over.	<i>Moles.</i> L. breast.	<i>Moles.</i> R. breast.	<i>Moles.</i> L. lumbar.	<i>Moles.</i> R. lumbar.	<i>Moles.</i> L. F. arm. L. hand.	<i>Moles.</i> R. F. arm, R. hand.	<i>Colored.</i> Tattoos, am- putations, blue eyes.

FIGURE 4.—*Plan of Transcript File-case No. 2, showing Labels on Drawers and Classification.*

alphabetic file with his prior card, with which it is compared, as he might, though a deserter, have reënlisted under his own proper name or have personated some other man. If he denies prior service, his card is then compared with the cards of the deserters and other undesirable men in the transcript file referred to. The examining clerk first observes the race of the recruit and his most conspicuous marks, noting from three to six of the latter. For instance, a white recruit 68 inches tall has, besides numerous smaller marks, a scar on his left forearm one inch by one inch, two scars on his left knee one-half inch in diameter, a scar on the calf of his right leg three-fourths inch in diameter, a raised mole on his left calf one-eighth inch in diameter, and a raised mole between right scapula and right shoulder one-eighth inch in diameter. In making the comparison the clerk will take the most conspicuous mark, the scar on forearm, first. He will withdraw from the transcript cabinet the drawer containing the cards of white deserters with scars on left forearm who are 67 inches tall and over, and beginning his comparison at 67 inches height will continue it to 68½ inches, allowing an inch for growth and a half inch for shrinkage. Should the examination on this mark be fruitless, he will make a similar examination for each of the other marks noted, after which, if the man is not identified, his outline card will take its place in the regular alphabetical file. If, however, the man is identified in the progress of the search, copies of the outline cards of his current and former enlistments, together with copies of the examination forms pertaining thereto, are transmitted to the Adjutant General by letter reporting the identification. If the man is a deserter the Adjutant General will by telegraph order his arrest, sending the papers in the case by mail. If not a deserter, the telegram will be omitted. When the papers reach the post where the recruit is stationed the case will be investigated under the direction of the commanding officer, who usually requires the surgeon there to examine the recruit with special reference to the description of the former soldier and express his opinion on the question of identity. If the investigation made by the direction of the post commander satisfies him that the recruit is identical with the former soldier, he will cause appropriate charges to be preferred against him, which, when approved by the department commander, will be tried before a general court martial. In many

cases the recidivist is simply ordered to be dishonorably discharged, by order of the War Department, without the delay of a court-martial.

The following notes of cases of identification will, I think, be of interest:

Wade L. Shields enlisted June 9, 1892; discharged without honor, Co. A, Fourth Artillery, early in 1893; presented himself for enlistment at Cincinnati, August 9, 1894, with the discharge paper of Walter B. Dent, formerly a sergeant in his battery, who had been discharged October 1, 1893; pretended to be Dent and was so enlisted. On receipt of his description in the Surgeon General's Office it was ascertained that he was not Dent but was Shields, and the matter having been brought before the Adjutant General, he was accordingly discharged without honor early in 1895. The genuine Walter B. Dent reënlisted within a few weeks thereafter. Shields next appeared at Fort Warren, Mass., where he was enlisted February 20, 1896, as Lee W. Shields, having concealed his former enlistment. He was in due course identified, tried, convicted of fraudulent enlistment, and is now (April 14, 1896) serving out his sentence at Fort Columbus, New York.

John H. Anderson, a colored man, enlisted January 22, 1891, and deserted July 11, 1891, from Co. H, Twenty-fifth Infantry; was soon apprehended and discharged, and served a term at Fort Snelling, where he was set at liberty October 1, 1892. Soon after, it appears from his story, he began to drink heavily, was arrested and confined in the St Paul reformatory, where he was released in August, 1893. Failing to get work and desperate from hunger and privation, he surrendered himself as *Felix Newsome*, who had deserted from the Twenty-fifth Infantry in August, 1891. He was brought to trial as Newsome, plead guilty (no witnesses to identify being brought forward, in view of his plea), and sent to Leavenworth for a year and a half. Soon after his incarceration there, in January, 1894, he applied for release, setting forth the above facts. An outline card forwarded from the prison established beyond doubt that the prisoner was Anderson and not Newsome, and he was accordingly set at liberty May 26, 1894.

Michael Jones, a military convict, was released from confinement at Alcatraz island May 15, 1890. He enlisted again at Fort Douglas, Utah, July 26, 1890, as *William Brady*; was identified

by outline card, and acknowledged his identity. Pending receipt of order directing his discharge, he deserted, and the order was revoked. He next appeared at Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he was enlisted December 22, 1890, as Michael A. Jones, concealing former service. He was identified by the cards as William Brady, *alias* Michael Jones, and admitted that he was ex-convict Jones, but denied that he had enlisted and deserted as Brady at Fort Douglas. This denial he persisted in until upon trial he was confronted by witnesses from Fort Douglas who recognized him, and he was thereupon sentenced to dishonorable discharge with three years confinement at Leavenworth.

The results of the work have been as follows: From July, 1890, to April 28, 1896, 537 men have been identified, 209 as deserters, 180 as soldiers whose previous service was terminated by dishonorable discharge (with or without imprisonment), and 148 as frauds of a minor grade. Of these 49 deserted before final disposition was made of their cases, and 13 others are at present awaiting final action; 402 were discharged the service by sentence of court-martial or by orders from the Adjutant General's Office, and 73 were retained in service, of whom 9 were subsequently discharged by sentence of court-martial, 4 were discharged without honor by orders from the Adjutant General's Office, and 20 deserted.

During the calendar year 1890, 18 identifications were made; in 1891, 88; in 1892, 123; in 1893, 88; in 1894, 80; in 1895, 101; and in 1896, up to April 28, 39.

In addition to the 537 cases noted, 184 identifications were made of men who had left the service—deserters, 113; military convicts, 34; others, 37. Three applicants for enlistment were identified at the instance of the recruiting officer, making in all 724 identifications made.

During the calendar year 1895 the whole number of identifications was 121 (including 19 cases of men who had left the service and 1 applicant for enlistment identified at the instance of the recruiting officer). This number represented the "repeating" element of 4,929 recruits whose outline cards have been examined—*i. e.*, of every thousand recruits enlisted from civil life 24.55 were identified through the outline-card records as deserters, military convicts, or otherwise bad characters.

It may be asked if no failures have occurred; if no men have

been identified by the cards who did not prove to be the same. It cannot be said that any distinct failures have occurred. The records show that in fifteen cases the Surgeon General has reported that men were probably (not positively) identical, in which the commanding officers have stated that, after investigation, they did not believe the men to be the same. Undoubtedly some of these cases were cases of true identity; also there have been five cases in which the evidence was considered sufficient to justify trial by court-martial, but in which the court acquitted the prisoners. One of these men was dishonorably discharged by order of the War Department immediately after and one acquitted man at once deserted. The failure to convict in these cases probably arose from other causes than failure of the evidence of identity.

It will be noted that the number of identifications was greater in 1892, soon after the system went into effect, showing evidently that the knowledge of the existence of this system has deterred the class it seeks to exclude from reënlistment—a result as satisfactory as an increased number of detections would be.

It has been objected that the reception of a scar or a tattoo mark after the enlistment card is made out might lead to the non-detection of the repeater, these marks not being on the original card. This objection might have some force if only one scar or mark or the scars and marks in one region only of the body were considered, whereas the scars and marks on an average of three regions are examined, and all have value in determining the question of identity.

Again, it may be said that in process of time these cards will accumulate so as to render identification very tedious. This difficulty is in a measure met by taking out of the files those of men shown by their cards to have reached the age of 40. Thirty years is the limit of age for enlistment, and it is presumed that no recruit would be taken who was ten years older than that age. If the number of cards in any drawer becomes unmanageable, the difficulty can be met, if necessary, by still further subdividing the regions of the body represented.

The system I have just been describing is specially adapted for army use from its simplicity and facility of application. No apparatus and no camera or elaborate personal description is required. Army recruiting parties sometimes move about from town to town and could hardly carry apparatus with them. To

comply with the instructions of Bertillon in taking the eleven measurements of his system (each twice), take two photographs, record a careful description of facial peculiarities, and then of distinctive scars and marks would require more time than can ordinarily be given to each recruit at his examination.

Again, as has been pointed out by Lieutenant Colonel Greenleaf, it is well to avoid for recruits the use of a system such as that of Bertillon, which is associated with the detection of criminals. Even the present system has been objected to on the score of its similarity to that used for the identification of criminals, and still greater would be the objection if exactly the same system was used. It is not the greater personal exposure or indignity in the Bertillon system but its use with criminals that is objected to. There would be a certain advantage if a common system of identification could be used for all classes, private individuals, soldiers, sailors, and criminals, but in the present state of feeling in our community it cannot be. Some such system as that now in use in the army must for the present at least be relied on.

Lastly, the success which has attended the use of the army system, covering a period of nearly six years, is perhaps the best proof of its value. Failures to identify have been made, no doubt, but the large number of undesirable men excluded from the ranks amply justifies its inception and continuance. It met with little favor with the military authorities at first, but it is now relied on as an indispensable agency in maintaining discipline and in improving the standard of character in the ranks of the army.

SPIRITUALITY AMONG BURMESE AND SHANS.—The Burmese and Shans have an idea that a man's spirit takes the form of a butterfly, which leaves him when he is asleep or unconscious. They have a great objection to arousing any one suddenly from sleep "for fear," as they say, "that his butterfly may not return in time." On the return of a family from a burial, old men tie up the wrists of each one to prevent the butterfly escaping. This string remains till it falls off, worn out. Priests and chiefs are burned, as being a more honorable treatment than burial. It is said that when a woman dies pregnant her soul passes into torment, and her husband has to enter a monastery and become a priest for a certain time to secure her release.—*Woodthorpe in Jour. Anthropol. Inst., August, 1896.*